

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed February 28, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on April 12, 2000; June 17, 2002; July 17, 2002; August 14, 2002; January 27, 2003; August 21, 2003; June 1, 2004; November 26, 2004; December 17, 2004; May 25, 2005; and November 25, 2005.

The Applicant notes the partial consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 8, 2003. It is noted that copies of the Terada and Yoshihara articles were resubmitted November 25, 2005 (received by OIPE November 28, 2005). A concise statement in the English language regarding the Terada and Yoshihara articles was submitted December 1, 2005 (received by OIPE December 5, 2005). It is respectfully submitted that the Terada and Yoshihara articles were properly filed on December 8, 2003, and should be accorded their filing date for the purposes of consideration and compliance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98. The Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's consideration of the Terada article. However, the Examiner lined through the citation of the Yoshihara article and asserts that the Applicant has not provided "a concise statement of the relevance" for Yoshihara (page 3, Paper No. 01282005). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

It is noted that the concise statement originally submitted December 1, 2005, relates to both the Terada and Yoshihara articles. Specifically, the last line of the concise statement states the following: "The details of the 'Half-V-shaped switching mode' are described in 'Half-V-shaped switching mode FLC'D' by Terada et al., Collection of Preliminary Papers for 46th Applied Physics Concerned Joint Lecture Meeting, March 1999, p. 1316, and 'Time-division full-color LCD with ferroelectric liquid crystal' by Yoshihara et al., Liquid Crystal, Vol. 3, No. 3, p. 190" (emphasis added).

Since the previous citations of the Terada and Yoshihara articles did not specifically mention the concise statement, the Applicant provides herewith a new Form PTO 1449 that cites the Terada and Yoshihara articles and specifically notes the concise statement in column T². The Applicant also notes that the Official Action refers to an "Ekisho reference," which appears to be the same as the above-referenced Yoshihara article. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the attached Form PTO-1449 evidencing consideration of the Terada and Yoshihara articles and the concise statement regarding the same.

Claims 1-14, 25-38 and 51-64 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 2, 25, 26, 51 and 52 are independent. The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of the allowability of claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35 and 36, and the allowance of claims 51-64 (page 17, Paper No. 01282005). Claims 1, 2, 25 and 26 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 4 of the Official Action continues to request the Applicant's cooperation in correcting any errors of which the Applicant may become aware in the specification. In response to a previous request, in the *Amendment* filed May 25, 2005, the specification was amended to correct minor typographical errors. The Applicant will correct any further errors in the specification of which the Applicant becomes aware.

Paragraph 5 of the Official Action objects to the drawings asserting that "a driver circuit having a n-channel TFT over a substrate" is not shown in the drawings (page 2, Paper No. 01282005). However, for example, reference character "402" in Figure 4B denotes an n-channel TFT in a driver circuit (see page 20, line 23+, of the present specification for a written description of the same). Therefore, the drawings show all the features of the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objections are respectfully requested.

Paragraphs 8-19 of the Official Action reject claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 25, 26, 29, 30, 33, 34, 37 and 38 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,259,138 to Ohtani and U.S. Patent No. 6,288,413 to Kamiura, either alone or in combination with one or more of the following: U.S. Patent No. 6,225,150 to Lee; S. Wolf, *Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era*, Volume 2, Process Integration, 1990, Lattice Press, Page 398; Peter Van Zant, *Microchip Fabrication: A Practical Guide to Semiconductor Processing*, 2000, McGraw-Hill, Fourth Edition, Page 391; and JP 05-257137 to Sukegawa. The Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP §§ 2142-2143.01, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. "The test for an implicit showing is what the combined teachings, knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, and the nature of the problem to be solved as a whole would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art." In re Kotzab, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). See also In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

The prior art, either alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest all the features of the independent claims, as amended. Independent claims 1, 2, 25 and 26

have been amended to recite that a second conductive film has a thinner width as compared with a first conductive film. Ohtani, Kamiura, Lee, Wolf, Van Zant and Sukegawa, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-referenced features of the present invention.

Since Ohtani, Kamiura, Lee, Wolf, Van Zant and Sukegawa do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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